

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 28, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 88**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mazzoni  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Woods)**

(Principal coauthors: Senators McPherson and  
Vasconcellos)

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ackerman, Aguiar, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Baca, Baldwin, Battin, Baugh, Bordonaro, Bowen, Brown, Bustamante, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Cunneen, Davis, Ducheny, Escutia, Figueroa, Frusetta, Gallegos, Goldsmith, Granlund, Havice, Hertzberg, Honda, House, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Kuykendall, Leach, Lempert, Machado, Martinez, McClintock, Migden, Miller, Morrissey, Morrow, Murray, Napolitano, Olberg, Oller, Ortiz, Pacheco, Papan, Perata, Poochigian, Prenter, Pringle, Runner, Scott, Shelley, Strom-Martin, Sweeney, Takasugi, Thomson, Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Vincent, Washington, Wayne, Wildman, and Wright)*

January 20, 1998

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to  
Long-Term Care Awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 88, as amended, Mazzoni. Long-Term Care Awareness.

This measure would proclaim that, henceforth, the month of May shall be designated as Long-Term Care Awareness

Month and 1998 shall be designated as The Year of Long-Term Care Awareness.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that considerably more  
2 than half of all Californians over the age of 65 years  
3 eventually will need some type of long-term care. As the  
4 “baby boom” generation ages, the population of those  
5 over 65 years of age is projected to more than double in  
6 the next 20 years ballooning to an astounding 7.3 million  
7 by the year 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, While advances in medical technology  
9 have decreased the per capita disability rate, improved  
10 the general health status, and continue to add years to the  
11 average life expectancy of the aging population, the  
12 prodigious increase in absolute numbers portends an  
13 ever-increasing and insupportable demand on  
14 California’s current long-term care system; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to the aged, persons with  
16 disabilities and other specific conditions that leave them  
17 with functional limitations also are dependent on  
18 long-term care services. As the advance of medical  
19 science continues to increase the life expectancy of that  
20 population as well, California’s long-term care system will  
21 be further overburdened; and

22 WHEREAS, Stated succinctly, the state is inadequately  
23 prepared to meet and accommodate the long-term care  
24 challenge, financial and otherwise, that looms  
25 immediately before the state. The urgent need to  
26 complete the development of a long-term care services  
27 infrastructure is becoming increasingly apparent; and

28 WHEREAS, California’s long-term care system  
29 evolved in a patchwork manner that has left the state’s  
30 present oversight structure too fragmented for effective  
31 coordination and integration of long-term care services.  
32 Moreover, many of the state’s policies favor expensive  
33 institutionalization rather than the more economical and  
34 consumer-preferred home and community-based  
35 services; and



1 WHEREAS, During the calendar year of 1998, the  
2 California Health and Welfare Agency, in coordination  
3 with the California Department of Aging and the State  
4 Departments of Health Services, Social Services, Mental  
5 Health, and Developmental Services, as a first step  
6 toward the integration and streamlining of the state's  
7 long-term care services delivery system, is preparing a  
8 report on the long-term care programs administered by  
9 state departments in the agency; and

10 WHEREAS, The findings of Chapter 269 of the Statutes  
11 of 1997 declare that individuals requiring long-term care  
12 services most often are the best judges of their own needs.  
13 In accordance with those findings, the Health and  
14 Welfare Agency, in preparing its report, shall seek input  
15 and comment from long-term care consumers and  
16 representatives of long-term care consumers across age,  
17 disability, or specific conditions who participate in the  
18 long-term care programs listed in the report; and

19 WHEREAS, Research, however, indicates that the  
20 majority of California families and care givers are poorly  
21 informed regarding long-term care. This may be  
22 symptomatic of the lack of a strategic statewide plan on  
23 aging that, in addition to the integration and coordination  
24 of long-term care services promulgated by Chapter 269  
25 of the Statutes of 1997, includes broader coordination of  
26 all other services designed for the aged and disabled, such  
27 as those services related to housing, transportation, and  
28 veterans; and

29 WHEREAS, A 1994 long-term care poll commissioned  
30 by the State Department of Health Services, using  
31 representative samplings of California adults, indicated  
32 the following:

33 (a) Californians significantly underestimate the risk of  
34 needing long-term care. Less than 25 percent of the  
35 respondents correctly estimated their lifetime risk of  
36 needing long-term care.

37 (b) Californians substantially underestimate the cost  
38 of long-term care services. Nearly 50 percent of the  
39 respondents underestimated the cost of one year in a  
40 nursing home.

1 (c) Californians mistakenly believe their health  
2 insurance coverage includes long-term care. Over 50  
3 percent of the respondents with employer or  
4 union-sponsored health insurance mistakenly believed  
5 that they were covered for long-term care. Nearly 33  
6 percent of respondents age 65 years and over believed  
7 that their federal Medicare coverage would pay for  
8 extended periods of long-term care.

9 (d) Californians have not given much thought to the  
10 need for long-term care coverage. When asked why they  
11 had not purchased insurance, the majority of the  
12 respondents, regardless of age, indicated that they just  
13 had not given much thought to the purchase of long-term  
14 care insurance; and

15 WHEREAS, The development of a well-designed  
16 long-term care system requires a partnership of  
17 well-informed and active participants with the consumer  
18 as important as all others in the partnership; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*  
21 *Senate thereof concurring,* That henceforth, the month of  
22 May shall be designated as Long-Term Care Awareness  
23 Month; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That 1998 shall be designated as The Year of  
25 Long-Term Care Awareness; and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
27 prepare and transmit copies of this resolution to the  
28 Governor of the State of California, the Secretary of the  
29 Health and Welfare Agency, and to each Senator and  
30 Representative from California in the Congress of the  
31 United States.

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33 **CORRECTIONS**

34 **Heading — Authors.**

35 **Digest — Pages 1 and 2.**

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